

**SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS:**

Please replace the paragraphs on page 1, lines 4 through 26, with the following amended paragraphs:

-- The present invention relates to a kind of kitchen ~~equipments~~ equipment, and more particularly, to a multifunctional ladle.

**BACKGROUND ART**

The ladle is normally used for scooping out food, such as solid food, liquid diet with solid, soup or the like. For example, the function of the traditional ladle is ~~single singular~~, while ~~lack~~ lacking of other functions, such as screening, filtering, removing floating oil, funneling, straining, isolating, separating yolk from egg white, rapidly isolating the liquid and solids portion of the soup or the like. Therefore, the ~~single singular~~ function of the traditional ladle is not able to meet the user's requirements,

In order to meet such requirements, US 4,825,551 discloses a strainer ~~lade~~ ladle, which is a combination ladle ~~strainer~~ strainer, wherein the strainer and ladle portions are separable and each portion is independently functionable as a ladle and a strainer, respectively. So such a strainer ladle only allows for liquid-solid separation of liquid-solid food mixtures.

CN2149165 and CN2163605 also disclose a combination of the ladle and the strainer, each of which is only used for liquid-solid separation.

CN87209706 discloses a five-purpose soup ladle, in which a single straining hole is provided on the bottom of the large ladle portion thereof while the hole may be blocked by a small ladle portion thereof, ~~whereby~~ thereby stopping straining. The disadvantage of it is that it is difficult to fully ~~to~~ pick up and remove the floating oil of the soup or in the meantime, a lot of delicious soup has also been picked up and removed.--

Please replace the paragraphs starting on page 4, line 3 through page 6, line 11 with the following amended paragraphs:

--As shown in Fig.1, in a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the strainer ladle 3 has a bowl-shaped straining body and a short handle 9 which is integral with the ladle body. A screw base 10 is arranged on the back of the short handle 9. The strainer ladle also takes such a shape to match with the straining body. A solid circle member having a diameter of a chicken's egg yolk is provided on the bottom centre thereof. Some arched and/or circular holes are arranged around the solid circle member, a diameter of which depends on the design requirements. ~~Main~~ A main principle is that the liquid ~~diet~~ diet, such as soup or the like like, may flow out of the strainer ladle through ~~such some~~ the holes of the strainer ladle, while the solid or semiliquid diet is not able to flow out and is retained in the strainer ladle 3. A projection 12 is arranged on the back of the strainer ladle 3 and under the solid circle member.

Referring to Fig. 2, a multifunctional ladle in accordance with the present invention comprises a handle 1 and a ladle body 2 connected to one end of the handle and being integral with the handle 1. ~~therein the~~ The ladle body 2 is in the form of a bowl or other shapes and is configured and sized for matching with the strainer ladle 3. The size of strainer ladle 3, of course, may be larger than or smaller than that of the ladle body 2 without having an effect on separation of solid or liquid diet. A straining drain hole 11 is perforated on the bottom of the ladle body 2, which corresponds to the projection 12, and is exactly blocked by means of the projection 12, ~~whereby~~ thereby preventing the flow of ~~flowing~~-liquid diet out ~~form~~ from the ladle body 2.

A movable control switch is mounted on the handle 1 and inside the handle 1 a spring 5 is provided. A rectangular positioning hole 4 on the handle 1 is near to the ladle body 2. The positioning hole 4 may, of course, ~~is also in~~ have other ~~shape~~ shapes.

As show in Fig. 3, a controlling device 6 includes a rod member 7, one end of which is connected to the control switch through a spring 5 and another end of which is extended out the handle 1 and connected to the screw base 10 through an elastic device 8. The control switch is mounted outside the handle 1. The movement of rod member 7 is carried out by means of up and down movement of the control switch. The elastic device 8 is a spring or ~~an~~ a U-shaped spring.

When combination of the strainer ladle 3 with the ladle body 2 is made by means of a fixing device, the screw base boss 10 on the back of the short handle

9 of the strainer ladle 3 is extended through the rectangular positioning hole 4, while the short handle 9 is located on the positioning hole 4. Meanwhile, the fixing device such as a screw 13 is screwed in the screw ~~base~~ boss 10 through the elastic device 8 in order to engage the strainer ladle 3 with the ladle body 2. The short handle 9 and the screw ~~base~~ boss 10, can also have ~~are also in other shape shapes, and still be~~ ~~being~~ connectable to the handle 1.

Combination of the strainer ladle 3 with the ladle body 2 and separation of the strainer ladle 3 from the ladle body 2 are shown in Figs. 4 and 5 respectively.

When the control switch is moved, e.g., slid up, the strainer ladle 3 is also moved up by movement of the rod member 7, ~~whereby~~ thereby separating the strainer ladle 3 from the ladle body 2. Simultaneously, the projection 12 of the strainer ladle 3 is divorced from the straining hole 11 of the ladle body 2, thus ~~flowing~~ allowing liquid diet to flow out, as show in Fig. 5. When the control switch is moved down, the strainer ladle 3 is engaged with the ladle body 2 and at the same time the straining hole 11 is exactly blocked by the projection 12 under the elastic force applied by the spring 5, ~~whereby using~~ thereby allowing the device for scooping the soup.

As show in Fig. 5, the multifunctional ladle can be used as a funnel, a strainer ladle, a separator, or a screening and filtering means because the strainer ladle 3 has a hollowed out structure and the ladle body 2 has a straining hole. As shown in Fig.4, the soup and the solid food may be scooped up as the straining hole 11 of the ladle body 2 has been exactly blocked by the projection 12 of the strainer

ladle 3. At that time, if the control switch is moved up, as shown in fig. 5, the soup will ~~be flowed~~ flow out. In the same way, the chicken's egg yolk may be isolated from egg white and the floating oil may be separated from the soup.

As shown in Fig. 6, if the control switch is moved up ~~and at the same time~~ turnover of the strainer ladle is performed can be turned over by hand, so it is easy to clean the strainer ladle 3.

In this embodiment of the present invention, any one of the handle, the ladle ~~body2~~ body 2, the strainer ladle 3 and the rod member 7 is may be made of a kind of material, but not limited to, selected from the group ~~consists~~ consisting of steel, stainless steel, wood, plastics, rubber, iron, copper, silver, gold, aluminum, aluminum alloy, zinc, zinc alloy, nickel or the like.--